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# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: September 5, 2010**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

Crop and livestock conditions across the Commonwealth are once again beginning to deteriorate as another week of hot, dry weather took its toll. Days suitable for field work were 6.7. The dry conditions have allowed corn harvest to made considerable headway, although yield reports are well below normal and some producers are cutting grain corn for silage. Producers are continuing to treat soybeans fields for corn earworm infestations and while the crop is "holding its own" for the time being, more moisture is needed to help with pod fill. The week was a good one for hay cutting and curing, but the second cutting will be extremely short for most. Pastures are also short and many cattlemen are still feeding hay and some grain as well.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 8, 2010	35	38	27	0
August 15, 2010	35	37	28	0
August 22, 2010	19	29	49	3
August 29, 2010	24	36	39	1
September 5, 2010	31	42	27	0

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	23	33	30	14	0
Livestock	2	8	32	48	10
Hay, Other	19	28	36	15	2
Hay, Alfalfa	7	14	41	32	6
Corn	33	22	32	12	1
Soybeans	13	21	39	26	1
Tobacco, Flue-cured	13	23	25	29	10
Tobacco, Burley	3	10	12	63	12
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	6	30	41	20	3
Peanuts	13	22	48	17	0
Cotton	9	28	47	16	0
Apples, All	6	4	71	13	6
Grapes	0	0	23	60	17

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	97	91	93	95
Corn Dent	83	73	75	81
Corn Mature	64	54	53	54
Corn Harvested for Grain	39	23	5	6
Corn Silage Harvested	79	68	56	56
Soybeans Setting Pods	92	80	86	88
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	9	1	6	6
Winter Wheat Seeded	1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barley Seeded	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	44	38	56	44
Burley Tobacco Harvested	32	23	28	26
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Harvested	48	42	71	42
Peanuts Pegged	98	92	100	100
Cotton Setting Bolls	96	94	100	100
Cotton Bolls Opening	12	9	32	50
Summer Apples Harvested	95	90	91	96
Fall Apples Harvested	25	17	16	28
Winter Apples Harvested	2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Peaches Harvested	90	79	91	96

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sep 4	Mar. 1 to Sep 4 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	90	60	93	52	75	3	3469	3078	0.00	0.00	N/A	32.08	2.10
Norfolk	87	69	94	65	78	2	3983	3389	0.21	0.21	-0.35	33.03	0.33
Richmond	93	67	97	64	80	6	3942	3327	0.01	0.01	-0.49	22.66	-7.96
Roanoke	90	63	93	58	77	5	3653	NA	0.03	0.02	-0.47	29.41	-0.60
Wash/Dulles	92	64	96	61	78	6	3572	NA	0.00	0.00	N/A	26.50	-2.30

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### NORTHERN

#### CLARKE (Jacob Grove)

Drought and heat continue to bake our pastures, stunt hay growth.

#### FAIRFAX (Adria Bordas)

It has been extremely dry and hot.

#### FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Temperatures have been in the 90's. We received some rain and pastures started to look green again, but then the temperatures went back to the 90's and pastures are dried up again. Corn is being chopped for silage. Soybeans are holding at this time. All hay has suffered. Had some rain last weekend.

### WESTERN

#### AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)

No rainfall this week with higher than average temperatures contributed to worsening pasture conditions. Corn silage harvest is proceeding rapidly.

#### ROANOKE (Sheri Dorn)

Temperatures remain above normal. Weekly precipitation = 0.03 inches.

#### ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

No precipitation accompanied higher than normal temperatures this week further hurting pasture conditions.

### CENTRAL

#### AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Another dry week with dry hot air. The nights are beginning to cool down which is beneficial to crops and livestock after a dry hot day. Soybeans, tobacco, hay and pasture are holding there own. Its good hay cutting weather but the production will be short.

### CENTRAL (continued)

#### APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Soil dried rapidly this past week. Soybeans started dropping leaves and corn started drying quicker than previously noticed. Farmers are preparing corn land for small grain planting and harvesting hay. Dark tobacco harvest will be close to finish at the end of this upcoming week. Soybean farmers are scouting and doing limited spraying for worms.

#### CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Field conditions are, once again, becoming very dry. We had good moisture in August, but we need more rain to salvage the soybean crop. Grain farmers are planting cover crops and wheat and barley in harvested corn fields and fallow areas. Corn and corn silage are being harvested. Small fruit producers are preparing strawberry fields and plants for late September planting.

#### CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Another dry and warm week. No moisture from Hurricane Earl made it far enough west but the area doesn't need hurricane damage either. It's been a good week for hay cutting and curing but the production will be light. Soybeans are holding on but could definitely use a little rain. The nights are beginning to cool some which is beneficial to both crops and livestock.

#### FLUVANNA (John Thompson)

Continued dry conditions have greatly reduced the yield of any hay crop this fall. Pastures have been grazed beyond acceptable levels, and all cattle operators are feeding hay. First cutting may have been enough to carry the farmers through, but does not leave any room for selling hay this winter. Corn intended for grain has been chopped for silage by many producers. There is still grain corn standing, but yields will be extremely low. Most are forced to claim insurance on their crop. Beans are very short. Yields will be very low there as well.

#### SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Corn harvest is underway. Yield reports are much lower than normal.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### EASTERN

#### ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Dry conditions prevailed and the soybean crop is losing yield potential as a result. Corn harvest has progressed rapidly with poor yields.

#### MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Very little rain from Hurricane Earl. Soybeans could use some rain to help fill pods. Corn harvest is well underway for most folks. Yields are well below average with lots of fields going around 60 or less bushels. Yields are spotty in fields. The worm situation has been stressful with some folks spraying their entire crop twice. Soybean loopers and soybean aphids have been found in numbers high enough to require treatment. Vegetable harvest is winding down. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins are now being harvested. Producers are making plans for fall planting. They are soil sampling and making some lime applications following corn and preceding small grains.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND (Matt Lewis)

Corn harvest continued at a rapid pace last week as growers rushed to harvest fields before a potential hurricane landfall and local elevators relaxed moisture penalties. Many soybean fields were treated a second time for corn earworm infestations. Another round of dry weather has caused the condition of the soybean crop to decline. Cattle growers have baled corn fodder as a hedge against feed availability this winter.

### SOUTHWESTERN

#### MONTGOMERY (Barry Robinson)

A dry yet cooler week. Corn still struggling. Late plantings may be okay if we get significant rain soon, otherwise losses estimated at 30-35%. Hay and pasture fields again in need of significant moisture. Second cutting will be 30-50% less for most producers. Many still feeding hay, and some feeding grain. Some looking for hay to purchase. Vegetable and fruit crops are fading fast due to lack of rain. Only those with irrigation are still producing well. Fall crops starting off poorly due to dry conditions.

### SOUTHERN

#### PATRICK (Travis Bunn)

Nearly 2 weeks without rain. Starting to slow fall pasture growth down. Cooler temperatures are the only saving grace this week. Lots of fall hay hitting the ground and going up in tip top shape.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

There has not been any rain to speak of this past week. A couple of places get a few drops. Corn is pretty much harvested; there have been very low yields. Soybeans are showing some signs of pods and are being watched for bean fill. Tobacco harvest is going on steadily. Soybeans are being sprayed for insects.

#### MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clark)

Rains week before last improved tobacco and soybean crops west of Hwy 1. However the southeastern part of the county missed the rain and crops are suffering greatly.

#### PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Corn harvest is the main focus right now. Very low yields are causing standing corn to disappear fast. Most yields are in the 15-20 bushel per acre range. Some soybeans are still being sprayed for corn earworm infestations for the second time. Worm numbers were lower this time and some double crop soybeans only needed one treatment after escaping the first worm invasion. Dry weather over the last week has dampened enthusiasm for the soybean crop with lower yields likely. Some second cutting hay has been made the last two weeks. Peanut and cotton growers are evaluating maturity and anticipating an early harvest.

#### SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Rains early last week have helped crops. Although we are back to the point of needing rains again. Topsoil and sub soil moisture is very low and in some places non-existent. Pastures are very slow to come back. Growers continue to scout for pests in peanuts, soybeans and cotton.

#### SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Soil continues to be dry; Hurricane Earl gave us only spotty rains with some areas still dusty to .7 inches.

#### CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Farmers are harvesting corn at a fast pace with several storms churning in the Atlantic. We do not expect any wind damage at this point from Hurricane Earl. Hope for some much needed rain. A lot of pesticide spraying on soybeans due to heavy worm season. A few fields getting a second application now. Close to normal corn and soybean yields expected at this point.



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